

## **Arizona's Instrument to Measure Standards (AIMS) Science – FAQ**

### **1. Why are Arizona students taking AIMS Science?**

AIMS Science is part of the NCLB requirement for annual testing.

### **2. Which students take AIMS Science?**

Students in Grades 4, 8, and 10 take AIMS Science every spring. However, Grade 9 students who are enrolled in a life science course may take AIMS Science during their 9<sup>th</sup> grade year rather than wait until 10<sup>th</sup> grade. At this time, no other grade levels are being considered for AIMS Science.

### **3. When is AIMS Science Test administered?**

AIMS Science Test is administered every April in Grades 4 and 8 and high school. Contact your student's school for a copy of the district calendar with specific testing dates. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window dates go to this link: <http://www.azed.gov/standards/downloads/FiveYearTestingCalendar.pdf>

### **4. Is AIMS Science a timed test?**

No.

### **5. What is tested on AIMS Science?**

AIMS Science is aligned to the grade level science standard for Grade 4 and Grade 8; AIMS HS Science is aligned to high school science Strands 1 – 4. All AIMS Science questions are multiple choice.

### **6. Will students have access to the Periodic Table?**

Yes; in Grade 8, students will have a copy of the Periodic Table Reference Sheet. It is posted on the ADE website at [www.azed.gov/standards/aims/](http://www.azed.gov/standards/aims/).

### **7. Why are only Strands 1, 2, 3, and 4 assessed at high school?**

Strands 1, 2, and 3 are the process strands which are the foundation of all science learning. Strand 4 is Life Science which is the science course that is reported for NCLB.

### **8. Why are Grade 9 students allowed to take AIMS HS Science test?**

Life science is generally the first high school science course that students take. Some students elect to complete this course in Grade 9 rather than Grade 10. So that they may test in science during the year that they are actually in the life science class,

Grade 9 students may take AIMS Science in the spring of the enrollment year. No other out-of-grade testing is permitted.

**9. Does my student have to pass AIMS HS Science to graduate?**

No. The State Board of Education established that passing AIMS in Mathematics, Reading, and Writing is a graduation requirement. Science has not been added to the graduation requirement at this time (see ARS 15-701.01 and R7-2-302). Also, since it is not a graduation requirement, AIMS Science scores will not be considered for the Arizona Board of Regents High Honors Tuition Waiver.

**10. Can my student retake AIMS Science to get a higher score?**

No. Students test on AIMS Science once in Grade 4, once in Grade 8, and once in high school.

**11. My student was absent for AIMS Science test. Can he/she make up AIMS test at a different time?**

There are no make-up dates for AIMS HS Science; however, Grades 4 and 8 can make-up the test within the testing window. To access the Five-Year Testing Calendar for testing window dates go to this link:

<http://www.azed.gov/standards/downloads/FiveYearTestingCalendar.pdf>

**12. Does my student have to test on AIMS Science?**

The law requires every public school district and charter to administer AIMS Science to each enrolled student in Grades 4, 8, and 10 (see #2 for Grade 9 exception).

**13. Are private-schooled and home-schooled students allowed/required to test using AIMS Science?**

Private- and home-schooled students are not required by law to test using AIMS. Private schools may administer AIMS tests if they choose to do so. Private-schooled students and home-schooled students may test at their local district school. A parent or guardian must contact the Test Coordinator at the local district school to make arrangements for AIMS testing.

**14. When will I receive my student's AIMS Science results?**

AIMS results are sent to the student's school district/charter school, and the district/charter school is responsible for their distribution. Results for AIMS Science will be available in August for testing year 2008; after 2008, they are available in June each year. Contact your student's school for specific dates and methods of distribution of test score reports.

**15. My student has transferred to another school. How does the new school get my student's AIMS results?**

Your student's new school will request records from your student's previous school which should include AIMS Science results.

**16. Who can help me read/interpret my student's score report?**

Your student's teacher and school are your best resources for helping you understand your student's score report as they are both familiar with the report and with your student.

**17. Do students in Grades 4 and 8 have to pass AIMS Science in order to be promoted to the next grade level?**

Arizona law does not require students to pass AIMS Science test in order to be promoted to the next grade level. Since local school districts/charter schools have specific policies related to promotion, parents concerned about their student's promotion should discuss these matters with the student's teacher.

**18. Will AIMS Student Guides be available for Science?**

Yes. Student Guides for AIMS Science will be available early in 2008.